

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01 INR-07 PRS-01 /039 W

----- 108136

R 120914Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 932

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0526

STADIS //

FOR EUR/EE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, PROP, BU

SUBJ: VOA COVERAGE OF BCP CONGRESS

REF: A) SOFIA 059 (NOT SENT STATE); B) USIA 1264

1. YOU MAY RECALL THAT IN REF B USIA WORRIED THAT IF NO VOA CORRESPONDENT COMES TO SOFIA FOR THE PARTY CONGRESS THIS WOULD IN SOME WAY ESTABLISH AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT. WE HAD A TELEPHONE CALL YESTERDAY FROM THE VOA MAN IN BELGRADE, FREUND, WHO ON THE OPEN LINE TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO OUR P&C OFFICER WHY THE EMBASSY POSITION IS UNREASONABLE AND HE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO COME. ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS TELEGRAM, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD CALL VOA AND TELL THEM I REGARD SUCH TELEPHONE CALLS A VIOLATION OF BOTH SECURITY AND PROPRIETY.

2. WE SEE NO SUBSTANTIVE PURPOSE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY HAVING A VOA MAN HEREDURING THE CONGRESS. THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN SEE OR LEARN THAT CAN'T BE OBTAINED FROM READING PAPERS AND LISTENING TO THE BULGARIAN RADIO; AND IN ANY CASE VOA'S BULGARIAN AUDIENCE WOUN'T BE INTERESTED IN HEARING STILL MORE ABOUT THAT BORING EVENT OVER VOA. THE ARGUMENT ON THE OTHER SIDE IS THAT VOA HAD A REP AT THE WARSAW AND BUDAPEST CONGRESSES AND EXPECTS TO SEND ONE TO PRAGUE, AND IT WOULD IN SOME WAY LOOK  
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LIKE WE WERE BENDING TO THE BULGARIANS IF WE DIDN'T

HAVE ONE HERE ALSO.

3. I AM NOT AT ALL IMPRESSED WITH THE ARGUMENT, BUT  
WOULD BE WILLING TO CHANGE POSITION IF THE DEPARTMENT  
ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO IT. AS WE SEE IT HERE, PRESENCE  
OF ANOTHER OFFICIAL AMERICAN IN SOFIA IS SOMETHING TO BE  
CONTROLLED BY THIS POST, AND IF NO PRACTICAL PURPOSE IS  
SERVED BY HIS BEING HERE THEN HE SHOULD NOT COME. PLEASE  
LET US KNOW IF THIS POSITION EMBARRASSES THE DEPARTMENT.  
IF NOT, I WOULD INTEND TO STICK WITH IT. REGARDS.  
HERZ

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROPAGANDA, INFORMATION SECURITY, JOURNALISTS, RADIO STATIONS, COMMUNISTS, PARTY MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ullricre  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SOFIA00526  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760094-0220  
**From:** SOFIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760366/aaaacfm.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 76 SOFIA 59  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ullricre  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2004 by ullricre>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VOA COVERAGE OF BCP CONGRESS  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PROP, BU, US, VOA, BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006